Coconut and cashewnut plantation in M.P.

399. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Madhya Pradesh has initiated a number of schemes to be undertaken in regard to plantation of coconut and cashewnut in certain districts of the State;

(b) if so, what ae the main features of the scheme, whether the Centre have agreed to help and assist the State in implementing these schemes; and

(c) what are the total districts proposed to be covered under the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Government of India has sanctioned the following schemes on cashewnut and coconut for implementation in Madhya Pradesh during the Seventh Plan period.

(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Package Programme for development of Cashewnut. Under the Scheme for Cashewnut Development, 50 demonstration plots in farmers fields will be laid, 600 ha. brought under cashew plantation and colonal orchard established in 45 ha.

(ii) Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India. Under the Coconut Development Scheme, it is proposed to establish a 40 ha. demonstration-cum-seed Production farm, cover 200 ha under area expansion programme and provide assistance for irrigation facilities.

(c) While cashew development scheme is implemented in Bastar, District, Coconut development scheme is implementing in Bastar, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Khandwa, Khargaon, Bilaspur, Raigarh, East Nimar and Raipur Districts.

Long term policy on the allocation of imported oil

400. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vanaspati Units have threatened to curtail output and cut down production;

(b) if so whether their main demand is to announce a long-term policy on the allocation of imported oil and fix a reasonable price for the product; and

(c) if so, whether Government have accepted their demands; if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) As per newspaper reports the Vanaspati Industry has threatened to cut down production if Government fails to announce a long-term policy on the allocation of imported oils and a reasonable price for vanaspati. However, during the last oil year the Vanaspati Industry utilised about 5 lakh tonnes of imported oils and a similar quantum has also been fixed for the current year.

Procurement of wheat for Central Pool

401. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat procurement for the Central Pool has been very low in the month of May;

(b) if so, whether this is extraordinarily less as compared to the corresponding period last year; and

(c) the main reasons for the same and steps being taken to improve its position in June?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It was 35.60